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Progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to section II, paragraph 13, of General Assembly resolution 55/65 of 4 December 2000 and section II, paragraph 17, of Assembly resolution 56/124 of 19 December 2001, in which the Assembly welcomed the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 42/11, to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex).

In its resolution 45/7, the Commission recommended that a joint ministerial statement be issued and submitted to the General Assembly, together with its report in 2003 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration. The Joint Ministerial Statement, contained in the present report, includes an assessment of the implementation by Member States of the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the Assembly and recommendations for the period 2003-2007. The report also describes the outcome of the four round-table discussions held during the ministerial segment of the Commission at its forty-sixth session.

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Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

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I. Introduction

1. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex), in 1998, the Assembly called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration for 2003 and 2008; and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

2. At its forty-second session, in 1999, the Commission examined its new mandates emanating from the Political Declaration. In its resolution 42/11, entitled "Guidelines for reporting on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", the Commission adopted a questionnaire that included the information required for reporting on the action plans and measures adopted by the Assembly at that special session; requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to prepare, on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire provided by Member States, a biennial report, to be examined by the Commission at its sessions in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008 covering the difficulties encountered in meeting the objectives and targets agreed upon at that special session; also requested the Executive Director to cover in his report the efforts of Governments to meet the objectives and target dates established by the Assembly at that special session, on the basis of a comprehensive, confidential and balanced treatment of information covering all aspects of the drug problem; and decided to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration.

3. At its forty-fourth session, in 2001, the Commission considered the consolidated first biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together (E/CN.7/2001/16), which had been prepared on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire submitted by 109 Governments. At its forty-sixth session, in 2003, the Commission had before it the second biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly (E/CN.7/2003/2 and Add. 1-6), which had been prepared on the basis of 117 replies to the questionnaire.

4. In section II of its resolution 55/65 of 4 December 2000, and in section II of its resolution 56/124 of 19 December 2001, the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Commission, in its resolution 42/11, to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration.

II. Results of the ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-sixth session

5. In section I of its resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs convene, whenever appropriate, ministerial-level segments of its sessions to focus on specific themes related to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. At its forty-third session, in 2000, the Commission agreed to convene a ministerial-level segment at its sessions in 2003 and 2008, to coincide with the two target dates for achieving the goals agreed upon by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

6. In its resolution 45/7, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided that the ministerial-level segment of its forty-sixth session should be held in Vienna in April 2003 and that the segment should be held for a period of two days; also decided that the theme of the ministerial-level segment should be the assessment of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session; and recommended that a brief joint ministerial statement be issued at the conclusion of the ministerial-level segment, which would cover the following: an assessment of the implementation of the commitments assumed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly; and recommendations for the period 2003-2007, including recommendations on strengthening the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

7. The ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission was held in Vienna on 16 and 17 April 2003. It was attended by representatives of 132 States (including 75 ministers), 13 intergovernmental organizations and 30 non-governmental organizations. Ministers and government representatives participating in the ministerial segment adopted the following Joint Ministerial Statement, which is a reflection of the assessment of the efforts of Member States to implement the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly and recommendations for the period 2003-2007.

A. Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

Introduction

1. We, the ministers and government representatives participating in the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna on 16 and 17 April 2003, reaffirm our commitment to the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which made a significant contribution to a new general framework for international cooperation to address the growing drug problem, setting out specific goals and targets to be attained by all States by 2003 and 2008.

2. We renew our commitment to the principles established in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[1]

[1] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

inter alia, that action against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

3. We acknowledge the increased efforts and the achievements of many States, the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as of civil society, in countering drug abuse, illicit drug production and trafficking, and that international cooperation has shown positive results. We welcome the fact that the international drug control treaties now enjoy almost universal adherence.

General assessment

4. We recognize that progress has been uneven in meeting the goals set in the Political Declaration, as also reflected in the biennial reports[2] of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.[3] The drug problem is still a global challenge that constitutes a serious threat to public health, safety and well-being of humankind, in particular children and young people. It undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development, including efforts to reduce poverty, and causes violence and crime, including in urban areas.

5. We are deeply concerned by the serious challenges and threats posed by the continuing links between illicit drug trafficking and terrorism and other national and transnational criminal activities, such as trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, money-laundering, corruption, trafficking in arms and trafficking in chemical precursors. Strong and effective international cooperation is needed to counter these threats.

6. We are gravely concerned about policies and activities in favour of the legalization of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that are not in accordance with the international drug control treaties and that might jeopardize the international drug control regime.

General recommendations

7. We call upon States that have not already done so to become parties to the international drug control conventions. We reiterate the importance of States parties' fully implementing those conventions and urge States parties to take all measures to safeguard the integrity of the international drug control regime.

8. We emphasize that the world drug problem must be addressed in multilateral, regional, bilateral and national settings and that, in order to succeed, action to counter it has to involve all Member States. Action must be supported by strong international and development cooperation and must be further included in national development priorities. It requires a balance between supply reduction and demand reduction, as well as a comprehensive strategy that combines alternative development, including, as appropriate,

[2] E/CN.7/2001/2, E/CN.7/2001/16 and E/CN.7/2003/2 and Add.1-6.

[3] Formerly known as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

preventive alternative development, eradication, interdiction, law enforcement, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as education.

9. In the spirit of the principle of common and shared responsibility, we recommend that Member States, including donor countries, as well as international organizations, continue to provide financial and technical support for the fight against illicit drugs at the international, regional and national levels and, as appropriate, to provide new and additional support, in particular to drug-producing and transit countries.

10. We continue to support the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the global coordinating body in international drug control and as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

11. We also continue to support the role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the global fight against illicit drugs and its exclusive responsibility to coordinate all drug control activities within the United Nations system.

12. We recommend that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enable it to fulfil its mandates and to work towards securing assured and predictable funding.

13. We support the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and call for enhanced cooperation and understanding between Member States and the Board in order to enable it to implement all its mandates under the international drug control conventions.

14. We call upon States to continue to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials.

15. We call for the issue of international drug control to continue to be included among the key priorities of the United Nations in its medium-term plan.

16. We call upon the relevant United Nations agencies and entities, other international organizations and international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream drug control issues into their programmes.

17. We call upon all actors of civil society, including the media and the private sector, to continue their close cooperation with Governments in promoting and achieving the goals set by the General Assembly, in particular with regard to efforts to reduce illicit drug demand and to deal with problems related to the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other infectious diseases, in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

Final remarks

18. We, ministers and government representatives, reaffirm that international cooperation and the mainstreaming of drug control efforts are indispensable in

attaining our universal aspirations of international peace and security, economic and social progress, a better quality of life and improved health in a world free of illicit drugs. We therefore pledge our unwavering support to these common objectives and our firm determination to achieve them and, to these ends, we also recommend the following:

Further measures for the implementation of the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

A. National drug control strategies

1. As a reflection of the high priority accorded to countering the drug problem, most States have adopted national drug control strategies that have included the goals agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

2. We stress that, in order to be able to further develop sound, evidence-based drug control policies, data collection and analysis and evaluation of the results of ongoing policies are essential tools.

B. Reduction in demand

3. Member States have made progress in setting up new or enhancing initiatives to reduce illicit drug demand, in dealing with prevention of drug abuse and in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. Many Governments have initiated special programmes targeting groups at risk, in particular drug-injecting abusers, in order to limit their exposure to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations, is also playing a pivotal role in furthering measures to reduce illicit drug demand. However, drug abuse remains at an unacceptably high level. We are concerned at the rapid and widespread increase in the illicit production and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants and other types of synthetic drugs, especially among children and young people. We also note that among the most outstanding difficulties faced by many States in this area are financial and other resource constraints, as well as shortcomings in areas such as appropriate systems and structures, training and multisectoral and international cooperation.

4. Special efforts are essential to achieve a significant and measurable reduction of drug abuse by 2008. States should, in particular:

(a) Further implement comprehensive demand reduction policies and programmes, including research, covering all the drugs under international control, in order to raise public awareness of the drug problem, paying special attention to prevention and education and providing, especially to young people and others at risk, information on developing life skills, making healthy choices and engaging in drug-free activities;

(b) Further develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, including risk reduction activities, that are in line with sound medical practice and the international drug control treaties and that reduce the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse, and provide a wide range of

comprehensive services for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers, with appropriate resources being devoted for such services, since social exclusion constitutes an important risk factor for drug abuse;

(c) Enhance early intervention programmes that dissuade children and young people from using illicit drugs, including polydrug use and the recreational use of substances such as cannabis and synthetic drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants, and encourage the active participation of the younger generation in campaigns against drug abuse;

(d) Provide a comprehensive range of services for preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases associated with drug abuse, including education, counselling and drug abuse treatment, and in particular assist developing countries in their efforts to deal with these issues.

C. *Illicit synthetic drugs*

5. Most Governments are aware of the growing threat posed by the continued illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and are according high priority to reducing that threat. Many countries have begun campaigns focusing on parents, youth and other groups in order to address the false perception, especially among young people, that amphetamine-type stimulants are harmless. Law enforcement agencies have been improving their capacities to counter the use of the Internet to facilitate the illicit sale of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. Considerable progress in preventing the diversion of precursors has been made by enhancing cooperation, both with the chemical industry and at the international level.

6. States should renew their efforts, at the national, regional and international levels, to implement the comprehensive measures covered in the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors.[4] Special efforts should be made to counter the abuse and recreational use of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially by young people, and to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of such abuse.

D. *Control of precursors*

7. Many States have introduced or revised legislation on control of precursors and established procedures for the monitoring of suspicious transactions involving precursors. Significant progress has been achieved by States and international organizations through collective initiatives to prevent diversion of precursors. However, further work is required to improve international cooperation and to refine and update existing mechanisms aimed at preventing diversion of chemical precursors and at confirming the legitimacy of end-users of precursors.

8. States should further international cooperation in the implementation of article 12, on control of precursors, of the United Nations Convention against

[4] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 A.

Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[5] in close cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board and the measures agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

9. States should support international operations aimed at preventing diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants, by exchanging information with other States and conducting timely joint law enforcement operations, including the use of controlled deliveries.

10. States should establish or strengthen mechanisms for making the most effective use of existing systems and for ensuring strict control of chemical precursors used to manufacture illicit drugs.

E. Judicial cooperation

11. States have promoted multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities. They have also made progress in facilitating extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of proceedings, maritime cooperation, protection of witnesses and other forms of cooperation, in particular by updating and harmonizing legislation. Despite these efforts, difficulties still arise in negotiating or giving effect to extradition agreements, and obstacles contained in national legislation continue to limit international cooperation, in particular law enforcement initiatives targeting drug trafficking.

12. States should strengthen international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities at all levels in order to prevent and combat illicit drug trafficking. They should bear in mind its linkages to terrorism and other national and transnational criminal activities, such as trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, money-laundering, corruption and trafficking in arms and in chemical precursors. In particular, they should share and promote best operational practices in order to interdict illicit drug trafficking, including by establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms, providing technical assistance and establishing effective methods for cooperation, in particular, in the areas of air, maritime and port control.

F. Countering money-laundering

13. States have made progress by adopting legislation that makes money-laundering a criminal and extraditable offence. An increased number of States have established financial intelligence units to support effective investigation and prosecution of money-laundering offences and have successfully frozen, seized or confiscated proceeds derived from drug trafficking.

14. Despite some positive results achieved by removing impediments to criminal investigations previously linked to bank secrecy, there is still a need for further efforts, both in this area and in reducing the risk of financial

[5] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

institutions being misused for money-laundering and in disrupting the movement of proceeds derived from criminal activities.

15. States should strengthen action, in particular international cooperation and technical assistance aimed at preventing and combating the laundering of proceeds, derived from drug trafficking and related criminal activities, with the support of the United Nations system, international institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks.

16. States should also develop and strengthen comprehensive international regimes to combat money-laundering and should improve information-sharing among financial institutions and agencies in charge of preventing and detecting the laundering of proceeds derived from illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activities and used, inter alia, for the financing of terrorism.

G *International cooperation in illicit crop eradication and alternative development*

17. States have made progress, some significantly, in reducing illicit crop cultivation, through a balanced programme of eradication, alternative development and law enforcement. Successes have required long-term investment in economic development backed by technical assistance. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been established to measure the impact of such programmes. However, more efforts are needed to eliminate or significantly reduce illicit crop cultivation and to prevent such cultivation from re-emerging or from being relocated to other areas.

18. States should enhance support, including, where appropriate, the provision of new and additional financial resources, for alternative development and elimination programmes undertaken by countries affected by the illicit cultivation of cannabis, especially in Africa, of opium poppy and coca bush, in particular national programmes that seek to reduce social marginalization and promote sustainable economic development.

19. States should also enhance joint strategies, through international and regional cooperation, to strengthen, including by training and education, alternative development, eradication and interdiction capacity, with the aim of eliminating illicit crop cultivation.

20. States should encourage international cooperation, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in or from being relocated to other areas.

21. In accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, States are urged to provide greater access to their markets for products of alternative development programmes, which are necessary for the creation of employment and the eradication of poverty.

22. We recommend that adequate help be provided to Afghanistan in the framework of the comprehensive international strategy carried out, inter alia, under the auspices of the United Nations and through other multilateral forums, in support of the commitment of the Transitional Government of Afghanistan to eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, and in response to the unique situation of that country. This should help the provision of

alternative livelihoods and the fight against illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors within Afghanistan and in neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including the strengthening of "security belts" in the region. Also, extensive efforts have to be made to reduce the demand for drugs globally in order to contribute to the sustainability of the elimination of illicit cultivation in Afghanistan. In this context, we affirm that our response to this unique situation will not detract from our commitment and resources devoted to the fight against drugs in other parts of the world.[6]

23. States should encourage interregional cooperation by exchanging best practices, taking into account the specific characteristics and environment of different regions.

[6] This paragraph was included at the request of several interested delegations, including Afghanistan.

B. Outcome of the round-table discussions of the ministerial segment

8. Round-table discussions were held on 16 and 17 April on the following themes:

(a) Challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem;

(b) Countering illicit drug supply;

(c) Strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility;

(d) Demand reduction and preventive policies.

9. On 17 April, the outcome of the round table on challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem was presented by the Chairman of the round table, Petr Mares (Czech Republic). The outcome was as follows:

Outcome of the round table on challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem

Trends

1. Synthetic drugs present a new challenge and are regarded by many States as having the highest priority in drug control efforts. In particular, there has been a dramatic increase in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. The principal threats are that amphetamine-type stimulants draw in young consumers, and offer large profit margins, to illicit drug producers and drug traffickers.

2. Although drug abuse is declining in some regions, it is increasing in others. If the availability of one particular drug declines, other drugs, including new drugs of abuse, are substituted for it.

3. In several regions, injecting drug abuse has caused a dramatic spread of blood-borne infections, ranging from the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) to the hepatitis C virus.

4. There is a trend towards globalization of the drug problem, increasing its links with transnational organized crime. Links between terrorist groups and drug traffickers have also been noted; in particular, the proceeds of drug trafficking are being used in some cases to fund terrorist activities.

5. The use of the Internet to market controlled drugs and precursor chemicals is a worrying new trend.

The way ahead

6. A balanced approach is needed to address both the supply side and the demand side of the drug problem. It is important for national policies to include both measures to reduce illicit drug supply, such as drug law enforcement, and measures to reduce illicit drug demand, such as prevention, treatment and harm reduction. Research is considered to be important for building up the evidence base for drug control policy. New neuro-scientific research that is being conducted could offer benefits for treatment.

7. New ways to reach out to the youngest drug abusers and potential drug abusers are needed in order to reduce illicit demand for drugs, such as using the Internet to promote drug control and launching specially targeted public awareness campaigns.

8. In order to meet the challenge posed by injecting drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, Governments would benefit from working with civil society and non-governmental organizations.

9. States should share information about newly emerging drugs and good practices used in dealing with them, perhaps through the establishment of an Internet platform. Several States have suggested exploring the possibility of that being done through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

10. The legal basis for international cooperation aimed at countering money-laundering should be reinforced through the harmonization of national legislation and through the exchange of information and experts between countries.

10. On 17 April, the outcome of the round table on countering illicit drug supply was presented by the Chairman of the round table, Kembo Mohadi (Zimbabwe). The outcome was as follows:

Outcome of the round table on countering illicit drug supply

Observations

1. A condition for success in thoroughly reducing illicit crop cultivation is having law enforcement, interdiction and alternative development play complementary roles.

2. Political commitment is an essential ingredient for successful and sustainable interventions, as is the incorporation of alternative development into national economic planning, including such aspects as land titling.

3. All alternative development efforts require long-term planning; they must be planned and implemented bearing in mind the need for sustainability.

4. There is a need to differentiate the reasons for illicit crop cultivation: poverty is the main reason, while in some countries greed or entrepreneurial aspirations, including links with transnational organized crime, are contributing factors.

5. Large-scale illicit drug production has an adverse effect on internal political situations, acting as a source of internal conflict, to the detriment of order and the rule of law.

6. A key component of international efforts to prevent the illicit manufacture of synthetic and other drugs is the establishment of effective precursor control.

7. The rapidly increasing illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants are matters of serious concern. The illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants is likely to expand further because such stimulants are relatively easy to manufacture and there is considerable demand for them.

8. Emerging trends suggest that smaller production sites, which are easier to conceal, are being established for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. The illicit drug manufacture is being carried out predominantly by unqualified chemists, who produce illicit, dangerous and unpredictable drugs, with no quality control regarding their composition.

9. Backtracking investigations are extremely valuable in ensuring that the source of seized precursor chemicals is identified and that future diversions are prevented.

10. The illicit manufacture and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants are mostly taking place within individual regions, however, Ecstasy from Western Europe is now being smuggled into other regions.

Conclusions

11. Effective alternative development must clearly focus on the alleviation of poverty, the creation of jobs, the prevention of environmental damage, reforestation, economic sustainability and the provision of appropriate market conditions to enable licit products to replace illicit crops.

12. The creation of incentives for private investment should be seen as an innovative approach to alternative development.

13. There is a need for international assistance to enable meaningful funding to be provided in support of alternative development programmes in Afghanistan, in order to address the increased opium poppy cultivation.

14. Member States are looking forward to the results of the planned global evaluation of alternative development. There continues to be a need for the international community to provide support in the form of technical assistance in the area of alternative development.

15. Strong support has been expressed for Project Prism, which was designed to prevent the diversion of essential chemicals used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, and for Operation Purple and Operation Topaz,

which were designed to monitor international trade in the main precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine and heroin respectively.

16. Backtracking investigations, following the seizure of precursor chemicals, should be vigorously pursued by law enforcement authorities in order to dismantle criminal organizations and identify the source of the precursor chemicals. Such investigations should include the use of standard analytical methods and systems for establishing common origins of and identifying new types of illicitly manufactured drugs.

17. Governments are encouraged to form a partnership with those involved in administrative control, law enforcement and the chemical industry in order to build trust and facilitate information exchange in their efforts to improve precursor control.

11. On 17 April, the outcome of the round table on strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility, was presented by the Chairman of the round table, Achmad Sujudi (Indonesia). The outcome was as follows:

Outcome of the round table on strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility

1. In 1998, the Member States represented at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly recognized that the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.[7] No single State should act alone without the assistance of the others. States are interlinked by the world drug problem.

2. The United Nations offers the best, if not the only, answer to the drug predicament. Therefore, it is essential to provide unwavering support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board. Those two bodies have to increase their efforts by improving coordination and focusing their work bearing in mind their comparative advantages. It is also essential to improve the synergy of the Vienna-based international bodies and other entities for drug control, crime prevention and terrorism prevention, as well as the other international and regional bodies active in those fields.

3. Therefore, the United Nations should be maintaining its leading role in promoting multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies. States must spare no effort to prevent and combat at all levels the spread of the drug scourge.

4. The practice of exchanging liaison officers in the field of law enforcement is commendable, as it serves to facilitate and strengthen cooperation even further. In addition, there is a need for a strong mechanism for sharing experience, intelligence and best practices so that new developments may be dealt with.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 2.

5. Promotion of sustainable and alternative development programmes is a prerequisite for achieving the long-term objective of countering the world drug problem. Social problems arising from urban criminality related to drug trafficking and abuse should be dealt with on the same basic level as any other serious type of crime.

6. Numerous views have emerged on the links of drug trafficking with other serious crimes, including money-laundering, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, arms trafficking, diversion of chemical precursors and other types of transnational organized crime. Experience has shown that such serious crimes have an impact not only on political and economic stability, but also on society. A comprehensive international approach must be taken. Relevant international instruments have been developed, but there is still an urgent need to better coordinate their implementation.

7. The draft United Nations convention against corruption is nearing completion and will be adopted at the end of 2003. A similar United Nations convention against money-laundering would complement the existing regime against the various forms of international organized crime, including drug trafficking and corruption.

8. Cross-border cooperation activities, communication and transportation equipment, support in upgrading technical skills and training in best practices in law enforcement are all essential in tackling the problems of States affected by the transit of illicit drugs.

9. There is a need for increased cooperation in tackling the problems of States most affected by the transit of illicit drugs. Further attention should be given to capacity-building and institution-building of judicial and law enforcement systems.

12. On 17 April, the outcome of the round table on demand reduction and preventive policies was presented by the Chairman of the round table, Costas Stefanis (Greece). The outcome was as follows:

Outcome of the round table on demand reduction and preventive policies

Polydrug use

1. In contemporary society, a constant change of patterns of drug abuse is witnessed, with the prevailing pattern being polydrug use. In the definition of polydrug use, licit and illicit drugs are included, such as tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and other illicit drugs.

2. Programmes and policies should address both the licit (alcohol and tobacco) and the illicit drugs in order to be effective. Hypocrisy and double standards in the way substances are dealt with may jeopardize prevention messages.

3. Also, it is necessary to have an integrated approach to treatment that includes all drugs, both licit and illicit, since there is a strong indication that they share a basic common mode of action on the brain. There are also many common elements in treatment for all those substances. Polydrug use is not

only a problem but also an opportunity to integrate services and respond effectively to dependence.

The role of civil society, school, sports and public information campaigns in demand reduction

4. Public health and health promotion approaches are important in the development of prevention strategies. Prevention should start with the basis of all societies: the family. Parents should talk to their children and they should be provided with the right skills to make such interaction effective.

5. Prevention should continue in schools with teachers and peers. Drug abuse education should be incorporated into curricula in the context of health promotion messages.

6. In order to be effective it is important to work at the local level. Prevention work should be carried out at the community level and municipalities should be given the resources to implement the relevant activities.

7. Public awareness campaigns are important but should support prevention intervention and should not be carried out in isolation. Prevention campaigns should inspire rather than scare. The media and role models in the media should take on more responsibilities in the dissemination of information on preventive behaviour.

8. Specific interventions for groups at risk are important. The timely identification of high-risk populations is important for early intervention to prevent progression in abuse and dependence.

Enhancing programmes for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users and for the prevention and treatment of related diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS

9. Treatment, rehabilitation and risk reduction to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases should be based on a pragmatic approach aimed at preventing both drug abuse and the associated spread of infectious diseases. Substitution treatment for injecting drug abusers has proved to be quite effective in this field.

10. There is an urgent need to expand treatment to include all those in need by, among other measures, integrating treatment into the general health system. There is a need to develop comprehensive educational curricula for medical and allied professionals.

General issues

11. Overall it is necessary to have an integrated approach that takes into account individual needs and the sociocultural environment.

12. Progress in neuroscience and in social and behavioural sciences provides new tools for applying effective intervention in the field of demand reduction.

13. The scientific evaluation of interventions needs to be promoted further to allow for evidence-based interventions. The United Nations can facilitate the process.

14. International cooperation is necessary to reduce supply through sustainable development in close association with efforts to eradicate illicit crops and poverty.